

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A fuel cell cathode comprising a catalyst layer that comprises a catalyst-supporting electrically conductive carrier and a polymer electrolyte, wherein a catalyst is additionally supported by or mixed with said catalyst-supporting electrically conductive carrier, said catalyst being in contact with an oxygen absorbing/releasing material.
2. (Original) The fuel cell cathode according to claim 1, wherein said oxygen absorbing/releasing material is comprised of one or more of an oxidation-number-variable metal, a metal oxide, or a compound thereof, which absorbs or releases oxygen based on the change in oxidation number.
3. (Original) The fuel cell cathode according to claim 1, wherein said oxygen absorbing/releasing material is comprised of one or more of Zr, Y, an alkali metal, an oxide of alkaline earth metal, or a compound thereof, which absorbs or releases oxygen based on the adsorption of oxygen.
4. (Original) The fuel cell cathode according to claim 3, wherein said oxygen absorbing/releasing material is comprised of one or more of CeO<sub>2</sub>, CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>, CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>-Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, or CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>-rare-earth oxide.
5. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, claim 1~~, wherein the amount of said oxygen absorbing/releasing material in said catalyst layer is 5 to 16 wt.% relative to the total amount.
6. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, claim 1~~, wherein the total amount of the catalyst supported by said catalyst layer is 30 wt.% or less thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, claim 1~~, wherein the average particle size of said oxygen absorbing/releasing material is 2 to 40 nm.

8. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 7, claim 4~~, wherein said oxygen absorbing/releasing material is comprised of one or more of CeO<sub>2</sub>, CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>, CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>-Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>-rare-earth oxide, of which CeO<sub>2</sub> has been partly reduced to Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

9. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8, claim 1~~, wherein the ratio of the amount of said polymer electrolyte to the amount of said carrier in said catalyst layer is 0.8 to 1 or less.

10. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, claim 1~~, wherein said carrier is comprised of carbon that has been treated to be hydrophobic.

11. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10, claim 1~~, wherein the pore volume of said catalyst layer is increased by treating a catalyst ink, of which said catalyst layer is made, such that the number of pores therein is increased.

12. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11, claim 1~~, wherein more of said oxygen absorbing/releasing material is contained towards the electrolyte membrane side in said catalyst layer than towards the diffusion layer side, and wherein less of said oxygen absorbing/releasing material is contained towards the diffusion layer side than towards the electrolyte membrane side, or none at all is contained in such location.

13. (Currently Amended) A polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising an anode, a cathode, and a polymer electrolyte membrane disposed between said anode and said cathode, said cathode comprising the fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising an anode, a cathode, and a polymer electrolyte membrane disposed between said anode and said cathode, wherein said cathode comprises the fuel cell cathode according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 12, claim 4~~, said method comprising feeding hydrogen gas to said oxygen absorbing/releasing material, which is comprised of one or more of CeO<sub>2</sub>, CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>, CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>-Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, or CeO<sub>2</sub>-ZrO<sub>2</sub>-rare-earth oxide, periodically in a pulsed manner before or during operation so as to treat CeO<sub>2</sub> to be partly reduced to CeO<sub>3</sub>.